

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 27th June 1903.

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Nil.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th June has the following:—

BANGAVASI,
June 20th, 1903.

The Servian murders. A most dreadful and horrible affair! The news sends a thrill of horror through the entire system and paralyses the body. A king murdered, a queen murdered, the queen's brother murdered, her two sisters murdered, the king's councillor murdered, a General murdered, a prime minister murdered, a couple of ministers murdered, a dozen members of the king's body-guard murdered. What cruel and diabolical acts! What a revolution, as dire as a universal cataclysm, in highly civilised Europe! And such a dire revolution to occur not in a savage and barbarous African state, not among the cannibal inhabitants of Honolulu or Otaheite, but in enlightened and Christian Servia! One cannot trust one's eyes or ears even if one sees it or hears of it. Well might one ask if it is something which one is really seeing and not a dream after all.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The Pabna correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 11th June

SANJIVANI,
June 11th, 1903.

The Sub-Inspector of the Pabna thana in the Pabna district.

asks the authorities of the Police Department to remove the present worthless Sub-Inspector of the Pabna thana and send a better man in his place.

The Sub-Inspector failed to trace the thief in the case in which property belonging to Babu Bipin Chandra Pal was stolen, although a scarf belonging to the thief and marked with a *dhobi's* mark fell into the hands of the police. Also in the case of the murder of a child near the Pabna bazar, the police failed to secure a conviction of the accused, although strong evidence existed to prove the man's guilt.

3. Referring to the Maidan case, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th June says:—

SANJIVANI,
June 18th, 1903.

The Calcutta Police.

It is impossible to conceive of anything more scandalous than the conduct of the police of Calcutta as revealed by this case. The police of Calcutta are the supporters of cheats and dacoits! It is hoped that the Government will make a searching investigation without any delay.

The Bengal Government has recommended a larger appointment of European Constables as Inspectors of Police. But it is to be hoped that the Government will take into its consideration the misdeeds of many of the European Superintendents of the Calcutta Police before taking any steps in this direction.

4. The same paper says that one Nechra Naslya of taluk Golna

SANJIVANI,

A case of police oppression in the Rangpur district.

under thana Jaldhaka in the Rangpur district has made a complaint to the Subdivisional Officer of Nilphamari, alleging that Babu Pyari Mohan Pal,

Sub-Inspector of the Jaldhaka police-station, with two constables, one panchayet, and a few chaukidars, made a search of his house while investigating a case of theft, and that, not finding the stolen property in the house, they kept him in confinement and beat him severely until he was obliged to borrow a sum of Rs. 25 for paying them as illegal gratification. On the payment of this sum he was released.

5. The same paper publishes two letters from two villages in the

SANJIVANI,

The chaukidari-tax.

Mymensingh and Burdwan districts containing descriptions, similar to those which have appeared in previous issues, of the oppressions which are committed by chaukidars, panchayets, &c., on poor people, the hardship that is caused by enhancements of the chaukidari-tax, and the evils which characterise the present chaukidari system.

6. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th June says that

HITAVADI,
June 19th, 1903.

Budmashes in a village in the Bankura district.

Mr. J. N. Gupta, the District Magistrate of Bankura, has done a great service to the Maliarha village within his jurisdiction by including the

names of a number of local *budmashes* in the C. form and taking from them

bail-bonds for good behaviour. But one of the foremost among the *budmashes* has succeeded in eluding his grasp. This man is now intimidating the villagers who gave evidence against his mates, and extorting money from them. The attention of the worthy District Magistrate is drawn to the matter.

HITAVADI,
June 19th, 1903.

7. The same paper says that the culprits in the murder case which recently occurred in the Ajjaspur village within the Serampore subdivision of the Hooghly district are still at large. The Subdivisional Officer of

A murder case in the Hooghly district.

Serampore has, in his judgment in the case, said that the villagers have made a conspiracy among themselves not to disclose anything concerning the murder, both because the murdered man was not an inhabitant of the village, and because a brother of the head clerk of a local mill, in which most of the villagers earn their livelihood, is implicated in the case. The police, however, ought not to remain inactive in the matter, and vigorous efforts should be made to hunt out the culprits and bring them to justice.

HITAVADI.

8. Referring to the case in which Babu Purna Chandra Lahiri, a detective

The Calcutta Police and black-mailing in Calcutta.

Inspector of the Calcutta Police, has brought to light a system of blackmailing and oppression practised by *budmashes* on innocent walkers in the

Maidan with the help of police constables and women of bad character, and in which a police constable, a woman named Lakshia, and some *budmashes* have been arrested, the same paper says that the case conclusively proves that there has been a recrudescence of *budmashi* in the town with the help of police servants. Whether it takes the form of the Maidan affair, of a roadside sale, or of fortune-telling, no deceit can go on in Calcutta without the help of police servants. Does the Police Commissioner know how many Eurasian men and women are every day plying the infernal trade of which Lakshia and others have been accused, and how many European police officers of high position help and abet them in their crime? He should be careful in selecting the officer to whom the charge of inquiring into the matter is entrusted.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
June 19th, 1903.

9. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th June has the following in its English columns:—

Police reform.

MOUNTAIN IN LABOUR.

We wonder what on earth could be the object of Government in deferring any longer the publication of the report of the Police Commission. As the reader knows, the *Advocate of India* has already published what purports to be a forecast of the recommendations made by the Commission, and the same forecast, in spite of the contradiction which it has since received, has filled the mind of the people with a feeling bordering upon consternation. When the Police Commission was ushered into existence amidst the flourish of trumpets, the flying of banners, and the roll of drums, it was generally believed—owing, it might be, to Sir John Woodburn's denunciation of police corruption in the Viceroy's Legislative Council—that the object by which the Government was inspired was to put an end to the peculation and corruption that were so much rife in the ranks of the police. How that object can be gained by raising the pay of the District Superintendent of Police and the higher official ranks generally at an outlay of three crores of rupees, and by giving Police Inspectorships to European Constables, as the Bengal Government has lately been doing, indeed passeth our comprehension. We remember that whilst the Commission was as yet sitting and nobody knew what direction was likely to be taken by its recommendations, the *United India* of Madras, which is edited by that veteran and esteemed Madras journalist, Mr. Subramaniya Iyer, predicted that the result of the whole pother would be an increase in the European element in the Police Department, and the multiplication of the emoluments already enjoyed by European police officers. If the forecast that has appeared be not devoid of all foundation in fact, we must say that our contemporary's prediction has come true, and his disbelief in the sincerity of certain men in high places has been fully justified. If it was at all necessary to increase the pay of the police, the increase should have begun at the bottom—with Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables, etc.—the occupants of which are paid on a scale which scarcely suffices to enable them to make both ends meet, and which, coupled with the obliga-

tion that is imposed upon them of keeping horses and ministering to the comforts of the higher officials during the touring seasons, often drives them to corruption in spite of themselves. If they were paid on a more decent scale, and if a little more discrimination was exercised in the recruitment of these officers, there would be far less corruption among them than there is just now. Man for man, the Indian Police Sub-Inspector is of a more respectable parentage and birth than his European Superintendent, and if he goes wrong and helps himself to money which he does not honestly earn, it is because it is tacitly understood between him and his employers, who pay him on a scale at which the merest clerk would turn up his nose, that he was welcome to supplement his legitimate income by any amount of "pickings" that might come his way. But whilst it is poor pay which drives their Indian subordinates to "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," the same incentive to corruption cannot be said to exist in the case of Police Superintendents and others, who receive handsome salaries (a good deal more than many of them are worth) and yet are not above appropriating to themselves the Jonathan's portion of the ill-gotten spoil of their Indian subordinates. We are referring to the *maskabari* system, which has lately been brought into prominence by some of our contemporaries, who have shown that the Police Superintendents come in for the lion's share of this *maskabari*. If Police Superintendents receive illegal gratification, it is not because of the smallness of their pay, but because they are possessed with an itching palm which must needs be greased by others, even when their pay was enough to enrich them beyond the dreams of avarice. What earthly purpose would then be served by increasing their emoluments? Are the authorities anxious to conform to the well-known doctrine preached by Christ—"To him who has much will be given, and from him who has little will be taken away that little which he has?" It is impossible to understand their policy on any other assumption. If the above represents all the good which the Police Commission proposes to do us, we must say that a mountain in labour has produced a mouse and the public of this country have been "gammoned" and sold.

10. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th June contains the following paragraph in its English columns:—

Sale of liquor in Calcutta during prohibited hours.

It has been brought to our notice by persons who are not supposed to talk at random that while the grog-shops are punctually closed at 9 P.M., there is invariably some house of ill-fame situated close by, where a sufficient supply is laid in, and where a customer can get liquor at any hour after the shops are closed. Thus the stern measures taken by the Commissioner of Police are alleged to have only resulted in the benefit of those who participate in such illicit sale. We publish this report in the hope that it will attract the notice of our lynx-eyed Commissioner of Police.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
June 20th, 1903.

11. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 20th June is sorry that the

The Calcutta Police and grog shops in the town.

Calcutta Police extort a good amount of bribe from such grog-shop keepers as keep their shops open after nine at night. The authorities should direct their attention to the matter.

BHARAT MITRA,
June 20th, 1903.

12. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th June says:—

Cases of dacoity in the 24-Parganas.

A few daring dacoities were recently committed in Sinthi and the neighbouring villages in the 24-Parganas. In some of these cases the dacoits committed great cruelty. A great deal is being said about the work of the Police Commission, yet in practice the police utterly fail to suppress these dacoities. The disarmed people have not even the means of protecting themselves. They are indeed living very happily under a benign Government.

BASUMATI,
June 20th, 1903.

13. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 20th June draws the attention of

Use of short weights by shop-keepers in Calcutta.

the Police Commissioner of Calcutta to the practice widely prevalent among the shop-keepers of the town, of cheating customers by the use of short weights. One day, the writer went to purchase some vegetable in Nutan Bazar in Jorasanko. The vendor used short weights and the writer, on detecting the deception, drew the attention of a constable who was standing by and asked him to arrest the vendor. The constable told the writer to get a

NAVA YUG,
June 20th, 1903.

summons issued against him before he could be arrested. The vendor in self-defence told the writer that he had to pay Rs. 40 a month to the police and he could make no profit in his business, after such payment, if he did not cheat his customers. The Police Commissioner should take measures to check this evil.

BANGAVASI.
June 20th, 1903.

14. A correspondent writing in the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th June says:—

A case of highway robbery.

One Nafar Chandra Mandal, of Nalta, a village in the Howrah district, was coming home one night with a parcel containing valuable things. On the highway he was set upon by four men who beat him until he fainted away. When consciousness returned, he sought the protection of certain gentlemen of a neighbouring village, who attended to his injuries and reported the occurrence to the police. But the police have not yet been able to apprehend the robbers.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
June 17th, 1903.

15. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 17th June says that

The Collector of Murshidabad and the khas mahal tenants of Gorabazar.

the place known as Gorabazar within the limits of the Berhampore Municipality in the Murshidabad district is a Government khas mahal. Lately there was a fire in that place, and many houses and huts belonging to the residents were burnt down. The Collector, Mr. Carey, instead of sympathising with the homeless sufferers, has been trying to take advantage of their misfortune by demanding from them new *kabuliyats*, the terms of which are calculated to deprive them of rights which they have been enjoying for more than sixty years. He has prohibited, quite unlawfully, the re-erection of houses and huts on lands the owners of which refuse to execute the new *kabuliyat*. He has asked under-tenants not to pay rent to superior tenants, but to pay it directly to Government, as Government, he says, will not henceforward recognise sub-leases in the mahal, although the right of sub-lease has been enjoyed by the tenants from a very long time. The Collector has also expressed an intention of taking forcible possession of the lands of tenants who do not execute the new *kabuliyat*. The land belonging to one Babu Lal Bandwalla, who had been in possession of it for a long time, was verbally transferred by the Collector to one Rai Charan Babu, though the latter did not ask for it. Babu Lal was prohibited, on pain of being sent to *hajut*, from reconstructing any building on it. But as Babu Lal was not willing to give up his long-standing right so easily, he built a *pucka* wall on the land. His action was reported to Mr. Carey, and the latter ordered his prosecution under section 447 of the Indian Penal Code.

The tenants of the khas mahal sent a telegram to the Lieutenant-Governor complaining of Mr. Carey's actions, and have submitted a memorial to His Honour through the Divisional Commissioner.

If a private zamindar had treated his raiyats in the manner in which Mr. Carey has been treating the Gorabazar khas mahal tenants and the raiyats had brought their zamindar's conduct to the notice of the authorities, what would Government have said to the zamindar? Would not the police have come forward to bind down such a zamindar for good behaviour?

Considering the heavy settlement work that is going on in the Murshidabad district, it is highly desirable that the Divisional Commissioner should locate his head-quarters for the time at Berhampore. That would afford poor raiyats an opportunity of representing their grievances to him, which, in many cases, they cannot do if he remains at a distance.

JYOTI,
June 18th, 1903.

16. In continuation of its remarks on the action of Mr. Geake, the

Mr. Geake and his ministerial officers.

Magistrate of Chittagong, in giving preference to outsiders while disposing of the offices in the ministerial establishment under him, the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 18th June writes as follows:—

Mr. Geake has removed Pranhari Babu, the accountant, and has appointed in his place a young man hailing from a different district in preference to two officers who are men of mature years, and are natives of this district. Babu Jagat Chandra Das, the head clerk, is neither an old man nor an

invalid, yet he is being removed on the plea that his knowledge of English, so long considered sufficient, is now found to be defective. Durga Das Babu, the accountant, who looks quite capable of work, has been refused an extension of service for ten months, although another officer, an outsider, has been granted an extension in spite of the fact that he is older than Durga Das Babu.

17. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th June says:—

SANJIVANI,
June 18th, 1903.

Presents to Deputy Magistrates in the Jessore district.

Babu Ashutosh Ganguli, the panchayet of Circle No. 4, under thana Mahamudpur in the Jessore district, sent a basket of fruits and other eatables to the Deputy Magistrate of Magura. The writer cannot say definitely whether the presents were accepted in this particular instance, but the making of presents to Deputy Magistrates has become very common in the mufassal. At least for the sake of decency, if not for anything else, the Deputy Magistrates should refrain from accepting such presents.

18. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th June says:—

BANGAVASI,
June 20th, 1903.

Rules relating to criminal procedure laid down by the Magistrate of Mymensingh.

Mr. Thomson, the District Magistrate of Mymensingh, has framed half-a-dozen rules relating to the procedure to be observed by the Deputy Magistrates, subordinate to him, in the trial of criminal cases. One of the rules directs that should any party in any case under section 145 of the Code of Criminal Procedure fail to appear with his witnesses, judgment should be given against that party. Whoever brings in his witnesses shall win, no matter whether or not his cause is true or just. Surely nothing can be more judicious and reasonable than such a rule!

19. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th June says:—

BASUMATI,
June 20th, 1903.

A laudable act of Mr. Samman, the District Judge of Khulna.

Babu Shyama Charan Mitra, the Sheristadar of the Sub-Judge of Khulna, died of the plague. Two sons, one sister, and one daughter of the deceased also died of the same disease. The family was left utterly destitute. Mr. Samman, the District Judge, has kindly appointed Babu Surendra Kumar Mitra, B.A., a nephew of the deceased, to succeed him in the post of Sheristadar. The people of Khulna are sincerely grateful for this kindly act of the District Judge. A small act of kindness often wins the heart of the people of this country. There is perhaps no other people who are more easily pleased, yet the high officials of the Government consider it quite superfluous to try to gain the affections of the Indians.

20. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 20th June says that the circular

NAVA YUG,
June 20th, 1903.

Interference with the independence of judicial officers in Mymensingh.

recently issued by Mr. Thomson, Magistrate of Mymensingh, to all Deputy Magistrates under him, affords an instance of the way in which European Civilians nowadays issue improper orders to their subordinate Deputies and even interfere with their judicial independence. The circular runs as follows:—

(1) The officer receiving complaints should make a very careful examination of the complainant and freely exercise his power of dismissal under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code. Every extra hour spent on this will save at least a day of some Court's time.

(2) In summons cases adjournments should be avoided. The order on the complaint should be for the accused to appear with his witnesses; on the date fixed no adjournment should be ordinarily allowed except on the ground that some witness for whom either the complainant or the accused has filed "talabana" for summonses in reasonable time is absent. The present practice followed by many Courts of allowing subsidiary list of witnesses to be filed by complainant, of adjourning the case for the defence, of recalling the prosecution witnesses for cross-examination should be discontinued. The Magistrate may, if he thinks fit, summon witnesses for the defence after hearing the prosecution evidence, but all Magistrates should remember that it is entirely discretionary with them to do so, and if the accused fails within reasonable time to apply for summonses between the dates on which summons was served on him and the date of hearing, I think the Magistrate only in very exceptional circumstances summon his witnesses. Certainly the prosecution witnesses should not be re-summoned for cross-examination.

(3) In section 145 proceedings, if either party fails to comply with the Magistrate's order to file his written statement or fails to produce evidence, summary order should be passed in favour of the other party who complies with the Magistrate's order. If neither party complies, an immediate order should be passed under section 146, Criminal Procedure Code. In no case and under no circumstances can I conceive that more than one adjournment should be granted, and even this as a rule should be refused.

(4) In police cases the present practice followed by most Magistrates is to examine the prosecution witnesses who are also cross-examined, and then, after the prosecution is closed, to allow all the prosecution witnesses to be recalled for cross-examination.

(5) Much more use should be made of section 514 Criminal Procedure Code. Generally the full amount of the bond should be forfeited.

(Sd.) W. B. THOMSON.

Mr. Thomson may have been actuated by a good motive in issuing the circular. But will his Deputies be able to realise his motive and act according to it? Many people believe that they will not. Many people are also disposed to doubt if Mr. Thomson had the power to issue such a circular without the authority of the High Court. The law has given Deputy Magistrates, when sitting as judicial officers, absolute freedom in the disposal of cases, and it is not right for District Magistrates to interfere with this freedom and prevent them from acting according to law and their own conscience.

The truth is that it is not right for Government to place young and inexperienced officers like Mr. Thomson in charge of a big and responsible district like Mymensingh.

(d)—Education.

21. *Al Punch* [Bankipore] of the 13th June has the following:—

AL PUNCH,
June 13th, 1903.

Lord Curzon on the Universities Commission.

Among the works which Lord Curzon has undertaken to make his Indian Viceroyalty memorable, three are the most prominent—(1) the Delhi Darbar, a demonstration which was a combination of Imperial greatness and Eastern magnificence; (2) the scheme of Police reform, and (3) the scheme of University reform. His Excellency's eminence as a scholar, administrator, and diplomat, has nowhere been displayed with such brilliant effect as in this University education question. In his Simla speech Lord Curzon explained at length all the defects of the present University curriculum and enunciated his views of reform to the following effect:—

The practice of giving employment only to graduates in the public service should no longer be followed, because to this practice are to be attributed all the present defects of the Indian Universities. In future, in the competitive examination for the recruitment of officers for the services of the State, candidates should be admitted irrespective of any University qualifications. The candidates who will fulfil the conditions laid down in the rules of such examination will be taken into such services. In fact, the Indian Universities should be entirely closed against those who read in schools with the sole view of making themselves fit for the services of the State. India has not, up to the present moment, made satisfactory progress in knowledge because of this ignoble aim of the Indian students in their scholastic career. University education should be given only to the earnest seeker of knowledge, and to those who seek it in order to make the best use of it. There ought to be technical education in India, so that the sons of well-to-do Indians may devote their energy to the development of the trades and industries of their country by acquiring a knowledge of technical sciences.

This expression of His Lordship's views filled every Indian heart with the hope that His Excellency would give the Universities a new course for good. But the lengthy recommendations of the Universities Commission have quite taken us aback. To our wise men the recommendations are but so many barriers placed of set purpose in the path of education. The spirit in which the conditions under which schools and colleges can maintain their existence are laid down is something like a two-edged sword, one of which will kill high education

and the other will butcher primary education. But that is quite against the spirit of Lord Curzon's Simla speech. In fact, the Commission intends to narrow the scope of Western education in India—a loss which nothing can compensate. But Lord Curzon promised to encourage native arts and industries as a compensation for the loss which we are to sustain by being deprived of education. If that is done, we shall be highly satisfied; else no one, not to speak of ourselves, will approve of the proposals of the Commission, because they will affect the welfare of the country. The welfare of a country is the source from which a civilized government derives its prosperity, while its disaffection is the cause of the ruin of Government. Her late Majesty the Queen says in the Proclamation of 1857 "In your contentment lies my strength, and in your prosperity my welfare." In fact, the curtailment of high education will surely affect injuriously both the country and the Government. If you do not believe us better read the history of India on the eve of the Sepoy Mutiny. What was the condition of the people and the country at that time? The history of that time is but a record of carnage and bloodshed. There was no mutual confidence between the rulers and the ruled—a circumstance which resulted in the Mutiny which shook the very foundations of the Indian Empire. This event was due to the complete ignorance of the people at that time. It is therefore clear that if the recommendations of the Commission be given effect to and high education be abolished, the people will resume much of their former characteristics. We are sorry for the recommendations of the Commission, specially because we fear there may be at no distant date a disturbance of the public peace for which we are wholly indebted to Western education. The British Government, with all its arms and ammunition, will not be able to confer on India half as much peace as has been effected by English education. A kingdom which possesses a good many engines of destruction is not at all stronger than one with its foundations laid firmly in the loyalty and implicit faith of its subjects. We see that education is the best means of teaching loyalty to a subject people like the Indians. It is certainly due to English education that men, whose forefathers thought it a meritorious deed to shed the blood of an Englishman and cut him to pieces, thinks it his bounden duty to save the life of the commonest English officer at his personal risk.

What is it that now keeps India in a perfect state of peace and comfort? Is it English troops? Certainly not. The number of Englishmen in India taken together is just like a drop of water in a vast ocean or a grain of sand in a vast sandy desert, and the quantity of gunpowder which they have in store will not be half as much as is spent by the people of India in merry-makings. A lizard can be killed by a swarm of ants. What, then, of a swarm of men? In fact, no one can say that Englishmen have kept India in a state of peace. It is loyalty and implicit devotion to the sovereign nation which has kept India in such a state. Education is the source from which this sentiment springs. This loyalty and devotion is sufficient guarantee for peace and for the security of India from foreign invasion. If the number of troops in India is reduced to half the number and the number of colleges is doubled, the kingdom will be four times more powerful than it is at present, because the educated natives will serve the purposes of soldiers. Many native Rajas and Nawabs went as volunteers to the Boer war, the Somaliland expedition, and the Tirah expedition. What was the reason of that? They did so because Western education had made them understand that their safety depends upon the permanence of British rule in India. In fact, education is the life and soul of British supremacy in India, and if it be taken away, the Indians are sure to resume their former character of ferocity and bloodthirstiness. God forbid it!

22. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th June says that on the 31st March last the District Board of Midnapore issued a notice to the effect that the services of the Inspecting Pandits under it would not be required after three months from the date of the notice. Although the Inspecting Pandits were not Government servants, they always believed that their posts were permanent. The attitude of the Education Department in this matter, as shown in the advice given to them on the 1st May 1900 and in paragraphs 5 and 6 of letter No. 830T.—G., of the 10th June 1902, confirmed this belief

HITAVADI,
June 19th, 1903.

The dismissal of all Inspecting Pandits in the Midnapore district.

on their part. It is on the strength of this belief that these poor people have remained in their posts for 19 or 20 years, and now they are going to be driven away in their old age without anything on which to fall back. It is hoped that Government will not fail to make some provision for their maintenance.

BANGAVASI,
June 20th, 1903.

23. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th June writes as follows:—

Sanskrit examinations and the
Sanskrit College.

The results of the Sanskrit first, second, and title examinations recently published are very satisfactory. The scholarships granted by the Government have greatly encouraged the study of Sanskrit. There has been a steady increase in recent years in the number of candidates appearing at the Sanskrit examinations. This year the number rose to 4,000, which is perhaps greater than the total number of students belonging to the Allahabad and the Punjab Universities put together.

A novel feature of this year's examinations is the fact that six candidates from the Sanskrit College and thirty-four from the Sanskrit Collegiate School have been successful in these examinations. When it is remembered that the professors and the students of the Sanskrit College are not eligible for the Government scholarships, the zeal that has been displayed by them cannot but be highly praised. In the title examinations the Sanskrit College stands first in *Vedanta* and in *Kavya*, and in the second examination it heads the list in *Kavya* and the *Vedas*. In the first examination, also, a candidate from the same College has obtained the first place in *Vyakarana*.

The Sanskrit College might be considered in two different aspects: first, as a model *tol*, and, secondly, as an interpreter between ancient India and modern Europe. As a *tol*, the Sanskrit College has acquitted itself well, as shown by its results in the above examinations. As an interpreter of ancient India, also, it has discharged its duties very creditably. Hitherto the syllabus fixed for the M.A. examination included a little of *Kavya*, *Vyakarana*, *Nyaya*, *Veda*, *Vedanta*, and comparative grammar. But recently, the University has made arrangements for conferring the M. A. degree wholly in *Shardarsan* or in *Vedanta*.

Last year two students obtained the newly created M.A. degree in *Shardarsan* and four the M. A. degree in Sanskrit under the old system from the Sanskrit College. It will be thus seen that the Sanskrit College has done good work in imparting high education both in English and Sanskrit.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
June 22nd, 1903.

24. Referring to the proposed appointment of some new Professors in the

The proposed new Professor-
ships in the Calcutta Sanskrit
College.

Calcutta Sanskrit College, the *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd June says that there is not so much necessity for appointing new Professors to the College department as there is for the appointment of some additional and competent teachers to the School department. The number of students in the Sanskrit department of the College is so few that if more Professors are appointed, there is every probability of such Professors remaining idle for want of pupils. The School department, on the other hand, is sadly in need of more and abler teachers.

If, in appointing new Professors in the Sanskrit College, Government's object is to promote the cause of Sanskrit education in the province, that object would be better served by its spending the money, it is bent on spending in the Sanskrit College, in awarding stipends to Sanskrit Professors who keep *tol*s of their own in the mufassal, and who have a reputation for learning. For, the *tol*s in the mufassal contain far larger numbers of students than the Sanskrit department of the Sanskrit College.

If, however, Government is determined upon the appointment of new Professors in the Sanskrit College, it should not leave the choice of candidates to the Principal. A Committee should be formed of such old and learned men as Mahamahopadhyayas Mahes Chandra Nyayaratna, Chandra Kanta Tarkalankar, Kamakhya Nath Tarkabagis, Krishna Nath Nyayapanchanan, and Raj Krishna Tarkapanchanan, to select candidates for the posts. If there are found competent men in the Sanskrit College itself, they may be given any of the new posts they may be fit for. Among eminent pandits who are holding *tol*s in various places and from among whom the selection may be made, the following names may be mentioned, namely:—

(1) Pandit Debi Prasanna Smritiratna, of Belpuskarani, Professor of *Smriti*.

- (2) Pandit Hari Nath Vedantabagis, Raj Pandit of Burdwan, Professor of *Smriti* and *Darsan*.
- (3) Pandit Purna Chandra Vedanta Chunchu, of Berhampore, Professor of *Darsan*.
- (4) Pandit Bhagavati Charan Smrititirtha, of Calcutta, Professor of *Smriti*.
- (5) Pandit Kali Kumar Tarkatirtha, of Calcutta, Professor of *Smriti*.
- (6) Pandit Ashutosh Tarka and Nyaya Tirtha, of Mallikpur, Professor of *Nyaya*.
- (7) Pandit Durga Charan Sankhya and Vedanta Tirtha, of Bhawanipore, Professor of *Darsan*.

It is to be hoped that Government will permit no jobbery to be committed in the filling up of the new posts.

25. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th June complains of the want of able Professors in English in the Presidency College, Calcutta. Mr. Hallward has been made an Inspector of Schools and Mr. Percival's health is shattered, and some unknown Bengalis have taken the places of the few European Professors who used to teach English there. It is no wonder that men turned out by a college which has such an inefficient staff should bring disgrace on University education. And it is the deficient education of these men which is reflected in the students of private colleges because it is they who generally do the professorial work in such institutions. Government would have done a real service to the cause of education if, instead of making only a fuss by means of the Universities Commission, it had appointed a number of really good Professors to the Presidency College.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI
June 24th, 1903.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

26. Referring to the Bengal Government's proposal to appoint a Deputy Magistrate to the Chairmanship of the Burdwan Municipality, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 16th June writes as follows:—

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
June 16th, 1903.

Government is at liberty to do whatever it likes and it is not bound to explain its conduct to anybody. But its silence as to the causes which led it to seek to deprive Burdwan of the privilege of appointing its Municipal Chairman has naturally raised suspicions in the public mind about the honesty of its motive in this matter. It is generally believed that since the conferring of local self-government on the country by Lord Ripon, the officials have been looking on the privilege with suspicious eyes, and that it is for this reason that they are trying to deprive the Municipalities, one by one, of the right of appointing their own Chairman. If that is the real intention of the Government, why does it try to conceal it? There is an English proverb—"Give the dog a bad name and then hang him," and let Government act according to this advice in this matter.

To turn to the merits and demerits of the Burdwan Municipality. Under the system of local self-government the lighting and watering of the town have greatly improved, better service of privies has been secured, the condition of roads has become better, and an end has almost been put to all oppressions attending the assessment and realisation of rates, while the supply of pipe-water has improved the health of the town. Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur's Chairmanship has shown to the Government what a good unofficial Chairman is capable of doing, and there are many men in Burdwan who are as able as the Rai Bahadur is. Government should therefore announce the reason why it desires the appointment of an official to the Chairmanship of the Municipality. There is, however, one thing which we are bound to say against the Commissioners of the Municipality, namely, that during the last few years there has occurred a great schism and much dissension in their camp. Is it for this reason that Government is taking the undesired and undesirable step? Let them try to regain their old union and, as a necessary consequence, their old strength. If they cannot do this, let them resign. Why should they, by their own fault, deprive the public of a cherished privilege? Let

them fall on their knees before the Government and ask forgiveness for any fault of which they may have been guilty in its eyes.

SANJIVANI,
June 18th, 1903.

27. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th June writes as follows:—

The Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality.

Lord Curzon has transferred the management of the Calcutta Municipality from the hands of the native to those of the European Commissioners.

But Mr. J. G. Apear has recently brought to light certain facts which illustrate how the European Commissioners are robbing the tax-payers of Calcutta. The Calcutta Municipal Act says that no partner of any unregistered firm entering into any contract with the Municipality shall be allowed to serve the Municipality as a Commissioner. In spite of this, Mr. Bertram, a partner of Messrs. Gladstone, Wyllie & Co., continues as Commissioner, although the above firm has contracted with the Municipality for supplying the wood required for covering certain streets and Sutna stone required for other purposes. Mr. Cable, the President of the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce, first secured from the Municipality a contract for supplying artificial stone and sent in his resignation afterwards. Mr. Bradshaw, another Commissioner, and a partner of Walter Locke & Co., privately secured a contract worth a few thousand rupees, although the Act directs public invitation of tenders for all contracts above one thousand rupees in value. The above facts indicate what is going on in the Municipality. If any one could expose the way in which contracts are being given out, the public would come to learn how Lord Curzon's Municipal Act is working and who are the persons that are actually benefited by the money of the rate-payers.

HITAVADI,
June 19th 1903.

28. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th June has been astonished to

Local self-government endangered in Burdwan town.

learn that a great effort is being made in Burdwan town to have an official, a Deputy Magistrate, appointed as Chairman of the local Municipality.

It is a matter of great regret that the authorities are trying to deprive mufassal Municipalities of self-government. It was only the other day that a Deputy Magistrate was appointed as the Chairman of the Bogra Municipality mainly through the efforts of the District Magistrate of Bogra. It is hoped that the Municipal Commissioners of Burdwan will unanimously make a vigorous protest against the appointment of an official as their Chairman.

HITAVADI.

29. A correspondent of the same paper says that extensive jobbery was

The last municipal election of South Barrackpore.

practised in the municipal election, which took place on the 23rd May last, in the Kharhdaha ward of the South Barrackpore Municipality, and

great partiality was shown by the polling officer in recording votes. He allowed a Hindu named Akalu Chaudhuri to vote in the name of a Musalman named Shaik Akalu in spite of a protest against it from a candidate, whilst he disallowed the vote of one Krishnalal Banerji, who was his co-villager, although the man showed municipal bills in his name. Again, Babu K. M. Ganguli, a pleader of the High Court, having come to know that the name of one Nivaran Chatterji, a relation of the polling officer, Aghor Babu, was secretly inserted in the voting list of a certain candidate, wrote to the District Traffic Superintendent of Sahebganj, under whom Nivaran Chatterji served, enquiring if Nivaran Chatterji had not been present in his office on the 23rd May last. On the 6th June last a reply came to this letter to the effect that Nivaran Chatterji was present in office on the 23rd May last. Amrita Babu, a Deputy Magistrate, came to inquire into the matter on the petition of a large number of rate-payers. But he said, in the presence of a good number of respectable people who were ready to give evidence in the matter, that whilst he would not believe what fifty of them would say, he would believe what the polling officer and his three associates would say. Why did the Deputy Magistrate then take the trouble of coming up to the place to make an enquiry? The matter is very serious, and the District Magistrate is requested to enquire into it.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
June 20th, 1903.

30. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th June has the following in its English columns:—

Local self-government in Calcutta.

Where is the Commissioner to ask the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality to submit a statement showing how many Indian officials have been removed from the

Board to make room for Europeans or Eurasians since it passed into the hands of the Government? One of the objects of Sir A. Mackenzie and his supporters, in depriving the Indians of the control of the Municipality, was certainly to expel as many Indians as possible to make room for aliens—domiciled Europeans, Eurasians, "Poor Whites" and so forth. Will Mr. Apcar or Mr. Cotton be pleased to ask the Chairman to furnish the statement noted above? For we dare say, a document like it will go a great way to show why the Indians were deprived of the control they used to exercise over the Calcutta Municipality. Fancy the nature of the gruesome vandalism! The privilege of local self-government was first conferred upon the citizens and they were allowed to enjoy it for twenty-five years; and then suddenly they were robbed of it without any cause whatever. By the bye, Lord Curzon says proudly in effect that no matter what his colour, race or religion may be, no sooner does a man touch the British soil and acknowledge British rule than he becomes entitled to all the privileges of a British citizen. How long will the English people permit the selfish rulers of India to keep the Indians in leading strings and treat them as a conquered race and trample the Proclamation of Queen Victoria under foot?

31. The *Pallivasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th June writes as follows:—

Municipal self-government
threatened in Bengal.

Stop, O ruler of Bengal. Revoke not your grant. Why show your disfavour to those, O master, to whom you have once shown favour?

Why take back the small measure of self-government that you have granted. O English Government, you are the ruler of the universally adored Aryavarta. It is by your favour that the poor Indians have acquired the right of self-government. It is you who, by the education you have given them, have awakened in their heart a desire for self-government. Otherwise in autocratic India everybody would have been content to rely completely upon Government.

O ruler of Bengal, Burdwan and Bhagalpur are two advanced districts under your administration. You have had dear proofs that the work of self-government has been conducted very satisfactorily in both these districts. It is you who, as a mark of your satisfaction, have decorated Nalinaksha Babu, Chairman of the Burdwan Municipality, with the title of Rai Bahadur and granted a certificate of honour to Devendra Babu. It is by your acts that the people have been led to conclude that the work of self-government has been conducted well. Why are you then trying to appoint officials in the place of those whom you praised and honoured with titles only the other day?

Last time we gave a slight hint of this matter. This time we shall be a little more explicit. The Bengal Government wishes to appoint Deputy Magistrates as Chairmen of the Burdwan and Bhagalpur Municipalities. At any rate, a demi-official letter to this effect has been sent from the Bengal Secretariat to Mr. Chotzner, Magistrate of Burdwan. In that letter he has been directed to summon the Municipal Commissioners and ask them whether or no they are prepared to accept Amrita Babu, Deputy Magistrate of Baraset, for their Chairman. The Magistrate did as he was bid. The proposal gave many of the Commissioners a turn. The Commissioners asked the Magistrate in their turn, who was to pay a paid Chairman? The Magistrate wired this demand to the Secretariat, whence a reply was wired at once that the salary of the Chairman would be paid by Government. Many of the Commissioners present were quite overcome with this kindness of the Lieutenant-Governor, and a powerful emotion pervaded the entire local community like an electric current.

It was the same in Bhagalpur. There, too, the Magistrate was directed to make a similar enquiry, which enquiry was duly made by him. Both in Burdwan and Bhagalpur there has been a difference of opinion among the Commissioners. In both the places some Commissioners have agreed to comply with the demand of Government. With a view to please Government, the Commissioners of Bhagalpur have asked for a paid Vice-Chairman. But the rate-payers of Burdwan are not prepared to accede to the request of Government, so that Indra Babu of Burdwan, who never takes part in any municipal affair, is submitting a memorial on behalf of the rate-payers as their President. The rate-payers called a public meeting and strongly protested against the proposal of the Bengal Government and cried shame on those

PALLIVASI,
June 24th, 1903.

Commissioners who had agreed to it. The Commissioners have been elected by the rate-payers to defend the cause of self-government. Is it not, then, to act treacherously to betray that cause in this unjustifiable manner? If you, O master, appoint a Deputy Magistrate as Chairman, in the face of the protest of hundreds of rate-payers, at the instance of a handful of Commissioners, we shall know that self-government in Bengal is doomed.

Would it not be well, O master, to inform the public of the object of having two Deputy Magistrates as Municipal Chairmen at the cost of Government? The public are unable to understand why Government should be so willing to pay a Chairman when an efficient Chairman can be had for nothing. And why should this attempt be made in Burdwan and Bhagalpur only? Is it because to appoint an official Chairman is to circumscribe self-government? The Chairman is the master and not the servant of the Municipality. If the rate-payers, therefore, be deprived of the right of electing the Chairman they will be totally deprived of self-government. "Everything in this box is yours, only I keep the key in my possession." What respectable man will seek to become Commissioner on conditions like these? Will not the dignity of the Commissioners be lowered if they have to carry out the orders of the official Chairman in every matter? You are our instructor in these matters. Tell us whether it would not be so.

Is there, O master, no man in the Burdwan and Bhagalpur Municipalities who can perform efficiently the duties of Chairman? If there be not such a man even among the rate-payers of those two Municipalities, then it must be admitted that there is no man in any Municipality in Bengal who is fit to become Municipal Chairman, and that being admitted, it clearly follows that Government should provide every Municipality in the Province with a paid Chairman at its own cost, for it would not be right to make any difference between Municipalities in this matter. Do you, O ruler, wish to bring one Municipality after another under your control with a view to demonstrate the worthlessness of Bengalis? No, no, you are the representative of the most powerful English Government, and as such you are incapable of so mean a trick. There must be some deep design at the root of this action of yours. Be that object what it may, stop, O master, and do not interfere with self-government since your well-educated disciples and poor subjects are extremely pained at it. Mr. Bourdillon, we earnestly entreat you to stop. Stop yet, and God will bless you.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

BIKAS,
June 16th, 1903.

32. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 16th June complains that great oppression is being committed on the people by the *amla* and *choprasis* of the settlement camps in Backergunge, not unoften with the connivance of the officers in charge of the camps. People are constantly receiving names like 'sala' 'haramzada,' &c., and thrashings at the hands of the underlings. A correspondent draws attention to the treatment which three men, Gahar Ali of Khapura, Yakub Khan of Dudhalman, and Ochman Khan of Bharpasa, received at the hands of the *amla* and *choprasis* of the Sahebganj camp, and one of them, Yakub Khan, at the hands of the Deputy Collector in charge himself.

MEDINI BANDHAY,
June 17th, 1903.

33. The *Medini Bandhab* [Midnapore] of the 17th June says:—
The survey operations in the Contai khas mahals have been suspended on account of the rains. But a survey of the pargana Balarampur, near Khargapur, has been taken up. Here, too, the amins and the chain-men are greatly oppressing the raiyats. They are forcibly taking from the raiyats articles of food without paying for them. Coolies are made to work all day long without remuneration. Raiyats offering resistance are beaten. The people of Balarampur pargana are in great distress on account of scarcity of food consequent on the failure of the rains, and their distress is being aggravated by such oppression.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

34. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 15th June has the following :—

SUHRID,
June 15th, 1903.

Railway complaints.

Great inconvenience is suffered by passengers on the Laksam-Noakhali section of the Assam-Bengal Railway. The cars are frequently overcrowded. The number of passengers has largely increased, but the number of cars has not been increased in proportion. It is not unusual to find the ticket-collectors locking up for a small bribe a compartment with only three or four passengers in it, while thrusting 15 or 16 persons in another compartment. The booking clerks open their window only a few minutes before the arrival of the trains, thus putting the passengers to great trouble. The booking clerks purposely do so in order that they may find an opportunity to defraud passengers by taking their money and in the *golmal* omitting to deliver them any tickets in return. Want of drinking-water is another cause of complaint. There is no arrangement for supplying the passengers with drinking-water both at the Laksam and Noakhali stations. Passengers for Noakhali have to change at Laksam and wait for about six hours before they can get the train for Noakhali. Want of water is acutely felt by them while waiting in the changing station.

35. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th June says:—

BANKURA DARPAN,
June 16th, 1903.

Irrigation works for the Bankura district.

The inhabitants of the Bankura district are poor and ignorant, and suffer greatly from want of water as well as from disease. It would be impossible to ameliorate their condition unless the Government comes to their rescue. The Government has indeed spent a few hundred rupees in digging wells. But these wells can at best partially supply the want of pure drinking-water, and are altogether insufficient for coping with the needs of agricultural operations. The Supreme Government should excavate irrigation canals in those districts where they are needed and practicable, repair the old existing canals, and dig large tanks in suitable places. No doubt this will require outlay of money, but even the poor raiyats of Bankura will not refuse to contribute in aid of the necessary funds in the shape of a water-tax, when they consider the large benefits that are likely to accrue to the agriculture of the district from the execution of such works.

36. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 17th June says:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 17th, 1903.

A complaint against a railway jamadar.

A certain railway jamadar unnecessarily harassed the ladies travelling with a Sub-Deputy Collector by compelling them to change from one compartment to another at the Asansol railway station. On the latter's objecting to the change, the jamadar abused him in insulting language. The Sub-Deputy Collector made a complaint to the Sub-Inspector of Police, who sent a constable to inquire. But the jamadar used abusive language towards both the constable and the Sub-Inspector. If a person in the position of a Sub-Deputy Collector could be treated in this fashion, it may be very well imagined what treatment is accorded to common people.

37. Referring to the tramcar accidents in Calcutta, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th June says:—

SANJIVANI,
June 18th, 1903

Tramcar accidents in Calcutta.

Like fever, cholera, and the plague, the tramcar accidents have proved to be another pestilence in Calcutta. But like the others, it is not irremediable. Owing to the negligence of the tramway authorities, a large number of deaths have occurred within a short time. How long will the authorities remain so indifferent?

38. The same paper says that a fearful collision occurred between a passenger train and a goods train midway between the stations Bandwar Chak and Sonepur on the Bengal North-Western Railway. The fearful nature of the scene after the collision cannot be adequately described in words. Probably many of the dead were removed to some other place during the night. What object the Railway Company had in view in doing this none can say. The Company has reported that fourteen persons were killed and forty

SANJIVANI.

The railway collision on the Bengal North-Western Railway.

HITAVADI,
June 19th, 1903.

wounded. But only the statements of the eye-witnesses and of the inhabitants of the locality can give an adequate idea of the fearful nature of the occurrence.

39. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th June publishes the following railway complaints:—

Railway complaints.

(1) Babu Sailendra Bhattacharyya, writing from Tamluk, complains of the want of a waiting-room in the Kolaghat station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, which causes great inconvenience and hardship to such passengers as come from Tamluk by the Ghatal steamer line and have to wait at the station for two or three hours at midday before they get a train. There is a corrugated iron shed below the station embankment, but it is open on all sides and without any arrangement for seats. Besides these, the excrements of stray cattle, who have free access into it, and other sorts of dirt, make it quite unfit for use. Watermen are never found in the stations from Kolaghat to Midnapore. This causes great hardship to passengers in this hot season. Complaint is also made of irregularity in the starting of the passenger train, which ought to leave the Midnapore station at 4-15 A.M.

(2) Babu Kedar Nath Mitra, writing from Chandernagore, takes exception to the decision of Babu Srinath Sen, a Deputy Magistrate of Hooghly, in fining a certain daily passenger named Abhay Charan Sarkar Rs. 7 for travelling with a monthly ticket issued in the name, U. C. Sarkar. Abhay Babu claimed the ticket to be really his, and asked the authorities to produce the man U. C. Sarkar if he was not the man. The railway authorities are requested to look into the matter.

(3) Harendra Nath Das, writing from the Pateswari station, Dhubri, says that on the 5th May last he booked a kid from the Pateswari station to the Dhubri station under receipt No. 58. At the latter station the station-master misappropriated it and drove away the correspondent with insults.

(4) Babu Brajer Chand Goswami, writing from Nadia, says that on the 30th March last he went to the Santipur station and asked the station-master and booking clerk for 15 tickets from that place to the Kulchharhi station on the Brahmaputra-Sultanpur Branch line. The station-master asked him to take tickets for Santahar because, he said, there were then no tickets for Kulchharhi in the station. On this the correspondent asked him to write out blank tickets, because the passengers who were to travel with them being females, would be put to great difficulty in purchasing new tickets in the Santahar station. The station-master said rather angrily that he could not write out 15 blank tickets, although there was still one hour for the arrival of the train. The correspondent said that it was for purposes like this that the Railway Company employed men. On this the station-master got furiously enraged and abused him. The correspondent was thus obliged to take tickets to Santahar.

(5) Kamala Kanta Chatterji, writing from Bankura, says that theft of booked goods of every description by railway servants on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has assumed such a fearful magnitude as to frighten the merchants of that part of the country about their trades. The railway authorities shield their subordinates and refuse the claims of plundered merchants on the ground of "risk-notes." Oil, ghee, tobacco, and many other things are booked under "risk-notes," and the railway authorities ignore all responsibility for their loss, even when they are stolen by railway servants.

(6) Babu Hari Prasad Majumdar, writing from Akhuria, Tippera, says that at 11 A.M. on the 3rd April last a young woman was roughly handled by a *chaprasi* attached to the Bhingara station on the Assam-Bengal Railway for entering a second class compartment by mistake. The correspondent brought the matter to the notice of the station-master and the head guard of the train, but to no effect. Babu Jaladhar Laskar, a signaller attached to the Chandpur station, witnessed the *chaprasi's* conduct.

HITAVADI,

40. A correspondent of the same paper says that repeated failures of

The drainage of a khas mahal in the Midnapore district.

crops caused in the Daltakharai, Paharpur, and Keoramal parganas within the Contai khas mahal in the Midnapore district by the want of proper drainage in regard to the surplus waters accumulating in their fields have brought the cultivators to the verge of utter destitution. Last year they had to sell whatever moveable property they possessed for their subsistence. Many of them were obliged to leave their homes in quest of employment elsewhere,

while many others died of diseases caused by penury and starvation. It is in this state of things that the local *tahsildar* has proclaimed by beat of drum that the lands of those whose arrears of revenue will amount to more than Rs. 5 each will be put under certificate. Now, where are the poor people to go? Even a stone will weep at their distress. In December last the Divisional Commissioner, accompanied by the Subdivisional Officer, visited the parganas and consoled their inhabitants with sweet words of hope. After that the Subdivisional Officer again visited the parganas and made a plan for excavating a drainage *khal* for their benefit. But nothing further has been done in the matter, although the cost of the work is not likely to exceed Rs. 4,000. The attention of the Lieutenant-Governor is drawn to the destitute condition of the people brought about by the parsimony of the Government on the one hand, and the oppression attending the realisation of revenue on the other.

(h)—General.

41. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th June says:—

A postal complaint.

There is a post-office at the Hooghly railway station, but owing to the negligence of the railway sorters, letters meant for the Hooghly railway station are frequently missent to the Hooghly civil station. Letters due in the morning often reach in the evening or on the following day in consequence. Repeated representations to the Postmaster-General on the subject have produced no effect.

SANJIVANI,
June 18th, 1903.

42. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th June says that the fact that in spite of the decline of the sugar industry in the Jessore district the income-tax collected in it has increased by a few thousand rupees, is enough

Income-tax assessment in Jessore.

to indicate the oppressive nature of its assessment. Objections made to assessments are not listened to. If any one happens to incur the displeasure of the assessor, he may be sure to have a heavy income-tax assessed upon him. It is in this way that an income-tax of Rs. 15 has been imposed on Babu Janaki Nath Ray Choudhuri of Noapara near Jessore town, who had not to pay any tax before, without any enquiry into his real income. On the other hand, many people who ought to pay the tax get immunity from it through the assessor's good grace. On the 13th September 1902 Janaki Babu made a complaint accusing a clerk attached to the local income-tax office of bribery. A judicial enquiry was held into the matter by Babu Fakir Chand Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate, and afterwards the clerk was transferred to the Form Department, showing that the charge against him had been proved. But Janaki Babu, in spite of his repeated applications for it, has not got a copy of the Deputy Magistrate's report in the case. If the clerk has been really found guilty of taking bribes how is it that he still continues in Government service? The attention of the Lieutenant-Governor is drawn to the matter.

HITAVADI,
June 19th, 1903.

43. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 22nd June says that the Government has recently issued orders for stopping the circulation of the rupees coined in 1840. When-

The 1840 rupee.

ever these rupees happen to fall into the hands of the Government, they are punched and returned, and no price is paid for them. This means a loss of about 8 annas per rupee to the holders of such coins. The Government, although it refuses to be paid in these rupees, does not refrain from issuing them to others. Both the richer and the poorer sections of the public should try to realise the magnitude of the losses thus inflicted on them by the Government.

DACCA GAZETTE,
June 22nd, 1903.

III.—LEGISLATION.

44. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 19th June says:—

Cigarette-smoking by school-boys.

The pernicious habit of smoking cigarettes is gradually spreading amongst school-boys of tender years. This habit injuriously affects their body and mind. With the small savings they make from their tiffin allowance, the boys buy the half-anna packet cigarettes. Cocaine and cigarettes are ruining the

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
June 19th, 1903.

school-boys of this country. It behoves Government to pass a law for preventing the use of cigarettes by school-boys, just as it has done for preventing the use of cocaine. Even America, the country from which these cigarettes are imported, has passed rigorous laws against their use by school-boys.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
June 19th, 1903.

45. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 19th June says:—

Suggested alteration of the law relating to bad characters.

The law requiring security for good behaviour to be taken from bad characters, as contained in section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code, is, in practice, generally enforced against those who are habitual thieves or receivers of stolen property, or who habitually commit riots or extortion. This law should be so altered as to make it applicable also to those immoral persons who are in the habit of enticing to their ruin the wives and daughters of other people. The Hon'ble Judges of the High Court have expressed themselves in favour of such an alteration, which is also sure to receive the support of the people of the country, Hindu and Muhammadan alike.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HITAVADI,
June 19th, 1903.

46. Referring to the fact that the Maharaja of Nagodh has subscribed Rs. 10,000 to the Victoria Memorial Fund, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th June writes as follows:—

The Maharaja of Nagodh's subscription to the Victoria Memorial Fund.

The following appeared in the Administration Report for the year 1859 about the then Maharaja of Nagodh:—"His loyalty in the Mutinies was so immediate and spontaneous and of such value at that time that these qualities, beyond the mere measure of the assistance he was able to render, give a claim always to kind consideration and to our best counsel and support in his affairs." In spite of this solemn pledge on the part of the Government made less than 50 years ago, the present Maharaja of Nagodh is leading a miserable life as one driven out from his native home and compelled to live in foreign lands on the mercy of others. He is knocking about sometimes in Satna, sometimes in the Vindya hills, sometimes in Bijaypur, sometimes in Benares, and so on. His plaintive petitions to the Government are going for nothing. He is unable to meet his personal expenses, and *mahajans* and money-lenders are suing his subordinates for his debts. Such is the deplorable condition of the Maharaja. Is it possible that he has subscribed Rs. 10,000 to the Victoria Memorial Fund of his own accord? In these days the position of the native princes in India is such as to make them depend on others in everything they do. Subscriptions like the above are therefore subscriptions paid by British Residents out of the revenues of their States. We cannot even imagine of an exiled prince, who has no control over his own money and who has to depend on others for his livelihood, willingly paying such a subscription. Even a child can conceive that the conduct of officials in forcing the liberality of the people by means of threats and temptations—threats of official displeasure and temptations of titles—is extremely bad,—no better than the conduct of dacoits,—and it may not be improper to say that the money thus realised is no better than money stolen.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
June 16th, 1903

47. Referring to the Prince and Princess of Wales' rumoured visit to India in August or September next, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 16th June says that it will be better for plague-stricken and darbar-ridden

The expected visit of the Prince of Wales to India.

India if their Royal Highnesses do not visit her at present. All her princes and notabilities are at present hard up owing to the expenses they had to incur on the occasion of the Delhi Darbar. They will, therefore, be put to the greatest difficulty in paying proper honour and respect to their Royal Highnesses if they visit India at no distant time.

URIYA PAPERS.

48. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 3rd June states that slight rain fell in the Balasore district accompanied by a storm that did some damage to houses and trees. Rain in Balasore and Cuttack. The distribution of the rain all over the district was uneven. Its contemporary of the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 11th June states that a few local showers were received during the week under report, and that they more interfered with than helped the sowing operations. *URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, June 3rd 1903. SAMVAD VAHIKA, June 11th, 1903.*
- The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 13th June says that the rainfall during the week was generally light and that hot-weather conditions prevail. *UTKALDIPIKA, June 13th, 1903.*
49. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 13th June says that cholera prevails in Angul and Dhenkanal. Cholera in Angul and Dhenkanal. *GARJATBASINI, June 13th, 1903.*
50. The Puri correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 13th June says that cholera prevails in that town. This is significant, as there were above 7,000 pilgrims during the *Snanpurnima* festival and more are expected during the ensuing *Rath Jatra*. *UTKALDIPIKA, June 13th, 1903.*
- The Banki correspondent of the same paper says that many died of cholera in the Banki thana of the Cuttack district, and that their dead bodies were seen lying uncared for here and there.
51. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 11th June expresses satisfaction and joy at the announcement that the Prince of Wales is expected in India in September next. The expected visit of the Prince of Wales to India. *SAMVAD VAHIKA, June 11th, 1903.*
52. The same paper hopes that the report of the Railway Commission will attract the attention of Government to the inconveniences under which the third class passengers are labouring, and that these inconveniences will be removed before long. The report of the Railway Commission. *SAMVAD VAHIKA.*
53. In reviewing the administration of Talcher for the past two years the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 13th June observes that the Raja of that State is always accessible to his subjects, whom he treats with great kindness, and is therefore sincerely loved by his people. The administration of the Talcher State. *GARJATBASINI, June 13th, 1903.*
54. The same paper regrets to note that the scarcity of betel in Talcher has created great uneasiness among the people of that State, with whom it is an important article of food. Betel is sold there at the rate of 25 per rupee. Betel scarcity in Talcher. *GARJATBASINI, June 13th, 1903.*
55. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 13th June draws the attention of the local authorities to the murder and dacoity committed at Sankhjal in mauza Khaman in thana Dharmasala in district Cuttack, and requests that the offenders should be brought to justice without any delay. Murder and dacoity in a village in the Cuttack district. *UTKALDIPIKA, June 13th, 1903.*
56. Referring to the policy, adopted in England, of conciliation with Irish tenants at the cost of the public, the same paper supports the suggestion of Mr. R. C. Dutt that a similar policy should be adopted in India with regard to the rack-rented tenants in those parts where the permanent settlement is not in force. What Government should do for the Indian raiyat. *UTKALDIPIKA.*
57. The same paper draws the attention of the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj to the bad equipment and unsatisfactory management of the Karanjia hospital in that State, and observes that the hospital afforded very little relief to the cholera patients of that village, of whom 25 are reported to have died. It is hoped that the Maharaja will lose no time in placing the hospital on a satisfactory footing. Bad management of a hospital in the Mayurbhanj State. *UTKALDIPIKA.*
58. Referring to the want of drinking-water in mauza Kantadahara in thana Banki in district Cuttack, the same paper regrets that the Banki khas mahal authorities neglected to sink wells where they were urgently needed. This should not have been the Scarcity of drinking-water in a khas mahal in the Cuttack district. *UTKALDIPIKA.*

case in a place like Banki, where the khas mahal authorities have the estates' improvement fund at their disposal.

UTKALDIPKA,
June 18th, 1903.

59. Referring to the criminal case instituted in the Court of the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Jajpur in Cuttack by the Mahanta of Patpur against the *ijradar* of Govindpur pound in that district for conveying the cattle of the complainant to the pound by force and for realising money from the complainant against the law, the same paper requests the Magistrate to sift the matter to the bottom, for the oppressions committed by *ijradars* on the surrounding people have become a source of great discontent.

UTKALDIPKA.

60. Referring to the observations made by the same paper on Mr. Gupta, the Commissioner of the Orissa Division, connection with the misunderstanding between Mr. Das and Mr. Schurr, that was reported last week, a correspondent explains that Mr. Gupta was not to blame in any way, as he was already on leave when the matter was ripe for enquiry. The editor seems to accept the explanation and correct his views accordingly.

UTKALDIPKA.

61. The same paper states that the ceremonies in connection with the *Snan Jatra* at the Puri temple passed off quietly without any hitch or hindrance through the able management of the new Manager, and hopes that the *Rath Jatra* ceremonies will be conducted in the same way.

The late *Snan Jatra* in the Puri temple.

UTKALDIPKA.

62. The same paper points out that the proprietors of *ijmali* estates in Cuttack, not being supplied with road-cess assessment papers separately, are ignorant of the amounts of road-cess that they are liable to pay and that they are entitled to realise from their tenants, and are thus put to great inconvenience and difficulty. To take regular copies from the Collector's office would be an expensive affair. It is therefore suggested that the landlords may be permitted to prepare copies in the Collectors' office by their own men, subject to the control of a Government amla, who will compare and attest the same, and quotes the practice of the late Settlement Office in support of his proposal. The writer is, however, willing to accept any other method which the Commissioner of the Division may consider feasible.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 27th June, 1903.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.